

Parks Committee Minutes
Jefferson County
Jefferson County Courthouse
311 S. Center Avenue
Room 202
Jefferson, WI 53549

Date: Monday, November 2, 2015

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Committee members: Tietz, Augie (Chair) Christensen, Walt
Kelly, Mike (Vice Chair) Payne, Laura
Foelker, Matt (Secretary)

1. **Call to order**

Tietz called the meeting to order at 9:30am

2. **Roll call (establish a quorum)**

Present: Tietz, Foelker, Christensen, Kelly, Payne

Others Present: Nehmer, Nimm, Wiesmann, Wehmeier, Ward, Bennett (JCSA), Fuller (Friends of GHA)

3. **Certification of compliance with the Open Meetings Law**

Meeting Posted According to Open Meetings Law

4. **Approval of the agenda**

Approved as written.

5. **Approval of Park Committee minutes for October 5, 2015 and October 21, 2015**

Foelker motioned to approve. Kelly seconded. Motion passes on a 5/0 voice vote.

6. **Communications**

- a. Achieves Eagle Scout – Daily Jefferson County Union 10/19/2015
- b. Mountain Bike Park in County Planned – Daily Jefferson County Union 10/15/2015
- c. Love the Chase – Daily Jefferson County Union 9/18/2015
- d. Color My World – Daily Jefferson County Union 10/2/2015
- e. The Year of the Dog - Jefferson County Living 10/9/2015
- f. Cappie's Landing – Watertown Daily Times
- g. Disc Golf Course – Daily Jefferson County Union 10/22/2015

7. **Public comment (Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time)**

No Public Comment

8. **Discussion and Possible Action on Naming of Blackhawk Island Handicap Fishing Wharf**

Nehmer – noted that Bill Kohls, the driving force behind the Wharf, recently passed away. Nehmer asked the committee to consider naming the wharf after Mr. Kohls or a plaque in memory of Mr. Kohls at the wharf.

Wehmeier – stated the county has to consider these requests on a case by case basis and there is no set policy on naming rights. There are several policies in place; however none are specific to this situation.

Christensen – questioned whose property the wharf is a part of and suggested naming the park for natural feature(s) and have the recognition in some other form.

Tietz – suggested a plate on the pier “In Memory of”.

Nehmer – stated that department thanks volunteers by way of letters and thank you cards when donations are made. There are times that the method seems too small for the donation gift.

Wiesmann – stated that Kohls worked with Fishing has No Boundaries and he worked hard to get the funds to purchase the Wharf. The wharf is on Flood Mitigation property, not on ‘park property’. A plaque recognizing Mr. Kohl’s contributions for people with challenges is important.

Wehmeier – noted that the County is exploring ways to better recognize volunteers.

Kelly – questioned if this item should be discussed at Admin and Rules.

Christensen – motioned to recommend to Admin and Rules to seek a rule establishing the naming of parks facilities and the parks be named after natural features with recognition of individuals while investigating funding for plaques. Payne seconded. Motion passes 5/0

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Recognizing Sponsorships and Donations

Nehmer – noted that there are those who give their time and offer gifts of money for the acquisition of park property. Recent examples being the parcel adjacent to Garman Nature Preserve and the volunteer work on the Mount Bike Trails. Nehmer noted the importance of developing a policy on a quarterly or annual basis for awards to recognize donors and gifts.

Fuller – noted that the Friends of GHA could potentially sponsor an annual event/banquet on behalf of the Jefferson County Parks to recognize volunteers and donors.

Wehmeier – state that one of the goals for next year is a “state of the county” and questioned if we start recognizing individuals, businesses, etc.

Christensen – recognition could be a ‘theme’ for one of our outdoor events.

Nehmer – asked for guidance and framework for various recognition opportunities.

10. Discussion and Presentation on Building a Mountain Bike Park

Wiesmann – noted that he worked with IMBA to inventory the property for design and is waiting for final design and layout. The Green trail (easy) is the main trail. Blue (intermediate) trails have been started. Black (fast) trails to be in two sections. Developing trails takes time to measure slopes, preliminary flag slopes for correct slope percentage. One mile has been flagged, with 1/8 mile actually built. Work for the remaining of the year is weather dependent.

11. Discussion on Holzhueter Farm Conservation Park Implementation Plan Process

Nehmer – noted that the public comment period has concluded. Two comments received, one by each neighbor. DNR will meet with Parks staff in November to review and discuss. Parks staff will come back to the committee with guidance from the state and discuss how to proceed. Mr. Wise is questioning the access and easement.

Ward – noted that the intersection at the Island Road and the private property. The question was who owns the road. Ward indicated that the Wise’s own the road and the agreement states that the County/State can use the road to get to the (park) land not owned by the Wise’s. DNR is using, but if the use of the road or easement changes from when the easement was created there is a need to review. The easement was not created for public use to serve the park. Agreement that created the use of the road, the owners of parcel cannot oppose.

Tietz – asked why can’t we put a road next to the ‘drive’?

Kelly – noted that there are two sides of the park, and questioned how individuals would get across to each side.

Morrow – noted that there are metes and bounds descriptions of the (three easements).

Nehmer noted that he will get Real Estate, Grant, and Legal from DNR to discuss.

12. Discussion on 2016 County Conservation Aids for Garman Nature Preserve

Nehmer noted that the grant award came quickly and was more than requested. Work has begun.

13. Discussion on Donations Received for Garman Nature Preserve

Nehmer noted that the checks are in from the donating parties at \$28,000 each.

14. Discussion on Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) –Friends of GHA

Payne stated that she met with Fuller and Carlson on 10/23 for a nature walk.

Fuller noted that the Friends are working with Natural Resources Foundation on organized field trips to help raise money for the parks.

15. Discussion on Fundraising for Interurban Trail

Nimm noted that she recently received a check for \$1,000 from the Oconomowoc & Watertown Rotary. The clubs worked together to host the Watermelon Triathlon as a fundraiser for the trail. Nimm also noted that the department received a check for \$700 from Share the Road in Watertown. Share the Road held a Light up the Night ride as a fundraiser for the trail.

Tietz – noted that City of Watertown talked about the Trailhead plan for the Rotary’s donation. Tietz questioned if the City of Watertown could take responsibility for the trail portion from Humboldt (in Watertown) east to

HWY E. Tietz talked with Julie Simmons at We Energies. We Energies noted that the County has the long-term lease and that the County could sublease to City of Watertown for that section of the trail.

16. Review of Financial Statements (September 2015) and Department Update – Parks Department

Nehmer noted the year is winding down. All looks good. Purchases have been made and he noted some savings. The department is utilizing a temporary employee in the office to help until the Administrative position is filled.

17. Adjourn

Christensen noted that Anne Drehfal approached him regarding an art install project at Jeff Co Parks and requested the item be a December agenda item.

Christensen motioned to adjourn at 10:39am. Foelker seconded. Motion passes on a 5/0 voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Nimm, Program Assistant